

ness towards your brother practitioner. So strong is the personal element in the practice of medicine, and so many are wagging tongues in every parish, that evil-speaking, lying, and slandering find a shining mark in the lapses and mistakes which are inevitable in our work. There is no reason for discord and disagreement, and the only way to avoid trouble is to have two plain rules: From the day you begin practice never, under any circumstances, listen to a tale told to the detriment of a brother practitioner. And when any dispute or trouble does arise, go frankly, ere sunset, and talk the matter over, in which way you may gain a brother and a friend. Very easy to carry out, you may think. Far from it; there is no harder battle to fight. Theoretically, there seems to be no difficulty, but when the concrete wound is rankling, and after Mrs. Jones has rubbed in the cayenne pepper by declaring that Dr. J. told her in confidence of your shocking bungling, your attitude of mind is that you would rather see him in purgatory than make advances towards reconciliation. Wait until the day of your trial comes, and then remember my words."

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THE HIGHER PRELIMINARY EDUCATION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS.—In connection with the movement for the better education of nurses the following paragraph from the New York *Medical Journal* is of interest: "A casual consideration of the theory of ions in chemistry, essentially electrical in its nature, shows that that science in the future will demand on the part of the student a knowledge of the higher mathematics. The old 'algebra, as far as quadratic equations,' will no longer serve his needs, and he must learn the theory of infinitesimals, a genuine knowledge of which requires a rather high quality of mind. Evolution will eventually dispose of the question of the overcrowding of the medical profession."

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A NEW METHOD OF ADMINISTERING OILS.—The *Medical Record*, quoting from a French contemporary, says: "H. Boissel remarks that the facility with which castor-oil can be given in frothing beer is well known to all practitioners. It is, however, not always easy nor advisable to give beer, therefore he has devised a frothing mixture which serves the same purpose. It is in the form of a powder, composed of gum arabic, licorice, and lactose flavored with vanilla. A pinch of this powder, shaken with a little water, produces a very persistent froth, in which any oily substance, as cod-liver oil, castor-oil, iodized or phosphorated oil, can be given, and medicines lighter than the mixture, such as the silicate of methyl, essence of santal, etc., can be given, without the slightest unpleasant taste."—*Gazette Hebdomadaire des Sciences Médicales*.

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CHLORIDE OF LIME IN PUERPERAL INFECTION.—A. Ethier reports the successful use of this substance in a uterine douche in a case of puerperal infection. One hundred grammes of the chloride of lime were dissolved in twelve hundred grammes of boiled water and filtered. A glassful of the fluid was mixed in nine glassfuls of hot boiled water and injected very slowly. He has also used it in cases of simple metritis with a viscid, glairy discharge. It liquefies the viscosities, is non-irritating, causes no pain, and is not poisonous, like bichloride. In cases of ulcerated and inoperable neoplasms of the vagina with fetid discharge it causes rapid deodorization. It must not be used in a vagina which has recently been treated by the carbide of calcium without carefully removing all traces of this salt, otherwise the two substances will ignite and explode. Calcium chlo-

ride is also indicated in suppurating wounds with no tendency to heal and in abscess of the breast.—*La Revue Médicale du Canada*.

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A CASE OF LINSEED POISONING.—A case of poisoning from linseed is reported in the *Lancet* of a robust male adult who applied a hot linseed poultice to an inflamed hemorrhoid. Four hours later he began to have unusual sensations in the throat and on the skin, a reddish-purple hue of the latter, deafness, impairment of vision, diarrhoea, and vomiting. Two hours after the commencement of symptoms he was first seen by the author and was in a state of collapse with quick and feeble pulse, a feeling of nausea, and cyanosed face and extremities. His respiration was quiet and the diarrhoea had ceased, but he had a marked condition of cutis anserina. He lay curled up on his side in bed and was very prostrate; he at once told me that he had been poisoned by linseed as recognized from his previous experiences. He was given an ounce of brandy in hot water, and hot bottles were placed to his feet and body; he passed a good night and on the next day was in normal health again. According to the author, the symptoms were due to one of the elements of the oil of linseed—viz., glyceride of linoleic acid. The patient had been previously twice poisoned by eating a few linseeds.

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TREATMENT OF NEPHRITIS WITH ICE.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association*, quoting from a German contemporary, says: "Stembo has treated twenty patients with acute nephritis by application of ice-bags to both kidneys, held in place with a bandage. After two or three hours he removes the ice for an hour and then replaces it, keeping up this treatment until the albuminuria has entirely vanished. This ice-treatment is especially useful in sudden, acute cases of nephritis and in the acute exacerbations of a chronic affection."

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INFLUENCE OF LACTATION ON CONCEPTION.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* quotes from a German contemporary as follows: "Weinberg states that conception occurred during the first six months after childbirth in only twelve per one thousand of five hundred and thirteen non-menstruating women who were nursing their children. The proportion rose to five hundred and ninety-five per one thousand in six hundred and fifteen women who were not nursing children. The influence of lactation on conception is thus confirmed."

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RUBBER AND LINEN GLOVES.—A German surgical journal recommends the use of linen gloves drawn over a pair of rubber gloves during an operation. The instruments do not slip as easily on the linen and do not puncture it, while the rubber beneath prevents the escape of germs from the skin.

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STERILITY AND THE X-RAY.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* says that a German exchange reports experiments on animals showing that treating them with X-rays produces in them a marked inability to reproduce, whether transient or permanent is yet to be determined, and this without any decided interference with the general state of health. This is caused by the killing of the spermatozoa. He experimented effectually on five rabbits and six guinea-pigs under a prolonged exposure of from six to eight hours.